1. "Where do you think you got the Bible from?"

Yes, the Bible was canonized formally in the 4th century, but the **Church didn't *create* the Bible—it merely *recognized* the writings that were already accepted by early Christians.**

- **2 Peter 3:16** – Peter refers to Paul's writings as "Scripture."
- **1 Timothy 5:18** quotes both the Old Testament (*Deut. 25:4*) and the Gospel of Luke (*Luke 10:7*) as "Scripture."
- The early Christians already viewed these writings as authoritative before the councils ever met. Councils like **Hippo (393 AD)** and **Carthage (397 AD)** simply confirmed what was already in practice.
- The idea that the Catholic Church "gave us" the Bible is misleading. The Church only recognized what was *already inspired* by God. God gave the Bible. Not Rome.

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2. "Jesus didn't leave a book, He left Apostles."

Correct. Jesus didn't leave a book—He left **Apostles** who **wrote the New Testament under the guidance of the Holy Spirit**.

- **John 14:26** – Jesus said the Holy Spirit would "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."
- That's exactly what happened. The **apostolic writings** became the New Testament. Today, those apostles are **no longer with us**, but their writings remain.

So, in the **absence of living apostles**, what do we rely on? The Word of God—**Scripture.**

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3. "Hold fast to traditions… by word or letter" – 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Yes, Paul encouraged them to hold fast to *apostolic* traditions. That does **not** mean blindly accepting later man-made traditions.

- The key is **"by word or by letter from us"**—meaning *from the Apostles*, not from future institutions.
- Once the Apostles were gone, the only verifiable source of their teaching was the *written Word*.

- Paul also warned against **"traditions of men"**:
  Colossians 2:8 – “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition… and not according to Christ.”

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4. "Sola Scriptura is false doctrine."

No, *Sola Scriptura* is not about rejecting all authority, but about recognizing **Scripture as the highest and final authority**—because it is *God-breathed*:

- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching… that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- Paul says Scripture makes us **complete**—not incomplete.
- There’s no mention of needing a Pope, a Magisterium, or oral tradition passed through a hierarchy to know God’s will.

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5. Catholicism adds to the Gospel (which is condemned in Scripture)

- **Galatians 1:6–9** – “If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”
- Catholic doctrines like:
  - **Mary as Co-Redemptrix**
  - **Purgatory**
  - **Prayers to saints**
  - **The Eucharist as literal flesh**
  - **Confession to priests**
  - **Indulgences**
  - **The Pope as infallible**

  These are **nowhere found** in the teachings of Jesus or the Apostles.

These doctrines evolved **hundreds of years** after Christ.

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6. The Original Church vs. Roman Catholicism

First of all, we all know how dangerous it is to view history through a biased lens—just look at what's happened with the BJP and RSS in India. In the same way, claiming that Catholicism is the original form of the church, or that the early churches eventually became Catholic, is not historically accurate—it's a biased interpretation, not a fact.

- The original church had:
  - Local assemblies of believers (Acts 2:42–47)
  - Elders and deacons—not a Pope
  - Fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers
  - No statues, incense, rosaries, or Marian dogmas
  - Faith in **Christ alone**, not sacraments, not saints

The idea that the "Catholic Church is the one true church" is a **historical fabrication** rooted in the merging of Roman imperialism and Christianity (beginning with Constantine in 313 AD, fully developed under Theodosius I in 380 AD).

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7. Apostolic Succession?

There is **no biblical basis** for apostolic succession the way the Catholic Church claims it. The apostles appointed elders—not successors to their apostolic authority.

- **Titus 1:5** – Paul tells Titus to appoint elders, not "new apostles."
- Apostles were **eyewitnesses of the risen Lord** (Acts 1:21–22). No bishop in Rome ever fulfilled this requirement.

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8. 45,000 denominations

We both knew it's a misleading number.

- Even if there are many groups, the core of true biblical Christianity is unified:
  Salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9),
  The authority of Scripture,
  The deity of Christ,
  His resurrection, etc.
- Division exists **because many left the Bible**, not because they followed it.

Ironically, Catholicism has its own divisions: Eastern Rite Catholics, Old Catholics, sedevacantists, liberal/progressive Catholics, and even priests who deny basic church teachings.

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9. We have the Bible now, not Apostles—so we test everything by the Bible

- **Acts 17:11** – The Bereans were commended for checking **Paul's** teachings against Scripture.

  > If even Paul was tested by Scripture, how much more should we test Catholic bishops or Popes?

- **Revelation 22:18–19** – Adds a grave warning: Don't add to or take away from God's Word.

Conclusion:

We respect history, but we submit to **God's Word**, not human institutions.

Christ established **His Church**—a spiritual body made up of **believers**, not a political-religious system headquartered in Rome. Catholicism has departed from biblical faith in many ways, and adding layers of human tradition on top of God's Word is exactly what Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for:

- **Mark 7:7–8** – "In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men... You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

I don't say this to offend, but to exhort: **Return to Scripture**. Return to Christ. Strip away tradition, and you'll find the simplicity and power of the true Gospel.

And yeah, it's 2025—anyone with internet access can study history and Scripture for themselves. People are waking up. Many have seen how Catholicism has misled generations, and as a result, churches are turning into bars and pubs, losing their purpose and power. The gap between what the Bible teaches and what Catholicism practices is now more visible than ever. In the years to come, Catholicism may only remain among three

groups: those who cling to a biased version of history, those running religious systems for profit, and the poor who blindly follow tradition, trapped under the weight of man-made authority.